

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2 - - - - - - - - - - -x

3 IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS :

4 OF 18 USC 2511 & 2512 :

5 - - - - - - - - - - -x

6 Grand Jury Room No. 3  
7 United States District Courthouse  
8 3rd & Constitution Avenue, N. W.  
9 Washington, D. C.

10 Tuesday, February 12, 1974

11 The testimony of RONALD ZIEGLER was presented to a  
12 full quorum of the Grand Jury.

13 BEFORE:

14 RICHARD BEN-VENISTE, ESQ.  
15 Assistant Special Prosecutor  
16 U. S. Department of Justice

17 JILL VOLNER  
18 Assistant Special Prosecutor  
19 U. S. Department of Justice

20 GERALD GOLDMAN, ESQ.  
21 Assistant Special Prosecutor  
22 U. S. Department of Justice

23 GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ.  
24 Assistant Special Prosecutor  
25 U. S. Department of Justice

ELIZABETH ANN TIPTON  
11225 Dewey Court  
Kensington, Maryland 20795  
(301) 946-4436

1           A     I don't remember when. I think it was when it  
2 either broke in the news or there was testimony that related  
3 to it. I don't remember specifically.

4           Q     Now, you made a statement on the 30th of March that  
5 no one in the White House had any involvement in Watergate?

6           A     (Nodding.)

7           Q     So you think that you learned about Mr. Strachan  
8 following that?

9           A     Yes, I'm sure I did. I think it was April. The  
10 30th of March statement related to the fact that the President  
11 wanted everyone to go to the Grand Jury.

12          Q     Did the President tell you to make that statement  
13 in March?

14          A     Yes, he did.

15          Q     He told you to make a statement that no one in the  
16 White House was involved?

17          A     The statement that I made in March related to the  
18 fact -- and I made this just before we left for California --  
19 related to the fact that the President wanted everyone to go  
20 to the Grand Jury, and we were also, during that period,  
21 asserting how we would prevent testimony before the Senate  
22 Watergate Committee.

23                Yes, at that time, I made the statement that no one  
24 in the White House was involved in the Watergate break-in.

25          Q     No.

ELIZABETH ANN TIPTON  
11225 Dewey Court  
Kensington, Maryland 20795  
(301) 946-4436

1 A Or Watergate matter.

2 Q Yes.

3 A That was obviously an ad lib on my part.

4 Q So the President told you nothing which encouraged  
5 you to make that statement?

6 A No. I was doing that on the frame of reference in  
7 my mind that the purpose of the March 30th statement --

8 Q Aside from that, Mr. Ziegler.

9 A Let me make the point. The purpose of the March  
10 30th statement was the fact that the President was encouraging  
11 and so stated -- it was a big news story -- that he wanted  
12 everyone in the White House and in the Administration to  
13 appear before the Grand Jury and we would do so before the  
14 Senate Watergate Committee.

15 During that whole period of time, he made reference  
16 to that.

17 Q So the President didn't tell you what he had learned  
18 on March 21st prior to your making the March 30th statement?

19 A No, he didn't.

20 Q In substance?

21 A No.

22 Q This was a brand new policy that the President was  
23 announcing about appearing before the Grand Jury?

24 A Well, it was a restatement of policy and also it  
25 related to --

ELIZABETH ANN TIPTON  
11225 Dewey Court  
Kensington, Maryland 20795  
(301) 946-4436